

This is an official

DHEC Health Advisory

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Expansion of Priority Groups Eligible for Inactivated Influenza Vaccination in Health Districts That Have Had Adequate Coverage of CDC Priority Groups of Oct. 5, 2004

Supplement to the CDC Health Update: "Updated Interim Influenza Vaccination Recommendations 2004-05"

available at: www.scdhec.gov/hs/han/notice.htm or
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/pdf/whoshouldget.pdf>

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) will expand the list of priority groups for inactivated influenza vaccination. This follows the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) (Updated Interim Influenza Vaccination Recommendation) released on December 22, 2004. This health advisory modifies the S.C. DHEC Health Advisory of October 5, 2004. The inactivated influenza vaccination expansion of priority groups will be effective as of January 3, 2005.

Continued aggressive efforts should be made to reach and provide inactivated influenza vaccine to unvaccinated persons in the original priority groups (as specified in the CDC Guidance for Interim Influenza Vaccination Recommendations: 2004-2005, issued on October 5, 2005) in all public health districts. Public Health Districts with limited supply of inactivated influenza vaccine should use available vaccine to immunize persons in the original priority groups. As a result of this, it may not be possible to expand vaccine coverage for the two additional priority groups in these districts until additional sources of vaccine become available. Local media releases will provide information to the public regarding local availability of vaccine for the original priority groups and for the two additional priority groups that have been added to the priority group list.

The expansion of priority groups for inactivated influenza vaccination will now allow adults age 50-64 years and out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of persons in high-risk groups to receive inactivated influenza vaccination by all health care providers and public health districts where the vaccine supply is adequate to meet the demand of the original priority groups. The persons eligible to receive vaccine include those in the original priority groups as well as the two additional priority groups (listed below):

Original priority groups

- all children aged 6-23 months
- adults aged ≥ 65 years
- persons aged 2-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions
- all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season
- residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities
- children aged 6 months to 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy
- health-care workers involved in direct patient care
- out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children aged < 6 months

Additional groups

- adults age 50-64 years

- out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of persons in high-risk groups

The ACIP also expanded the groups of eligible children to receive Vaccines for Children (VFC) influenza vaccine to include all VFC-eligible children who are household contacts of persons in high-risk groups. This expansion is effective immediately.

DHEC will continue to closely monitor influenza vaccine demand and will be vigilant for other sources of vaccine should demand warrant.

The public will be notified of these changes via press release from DHEC.

Additional information and resources regarding Influenza

To find CDC communication resources for use by state and local health departments and clinicians to encourage vaccination and other related prevention activities, please see:

Resources for health care providers and other public health professionals about the current status of 2004-2005 influenza vaccine:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/>

Weekly updates on influenza activity in the United States:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>

Weekly updates on influenza activity in South Carolina:

- <http://www.scdhec.gov/hs/diseasecont/acuteepi/flu.htm>

CDC resources for patient education, including the Flu Gallery and the Flu Toolkit. Resources are updated with new material as the flu season evolves:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/patiented.htm>

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of influenza cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at: <http://www.scdhec.net/hs/diseasecont/disease.htm>.

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

District Public Health Offices

Mail or call reports to the District Epidemiology/Disease Reports office in each district.

Appalachia I

(Anderson, Oconee)

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 231-1966
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-(866)-298-4442

Appalachia II

(Greenville, Pickens)

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: (864) 460-5355 or
1-800-993-1186

Appalachia III

(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227 ext. 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

Catawba

(Chester, Lancaster, York)

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29721
Phone: (803) 283-3175
Fax: (803) 283-0572
Nights / Weekends: 1-(866)-867-3886 or
1-(888)-739-0748

Edisto Savannah

(Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell)

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 642-1619
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Edisto Savannah

(Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)

PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 536-9118
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Low Country

(Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)

1407 King Street
Beaufort, SC 29902
Phone: (843) 525-7603
Fax: (843) 525-7621
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

Palmetto

(Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: (803) 304-4252

Pee Dee

(Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion)

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Trident

(Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 746-3832
Fax: (843) 746-3851
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Upper Savannah

(Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda)

PO Box 3227
1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Waccamaw

(Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)

2830 Oak Street
Conway, SC 29526-4560
Phone: (843) 365-3126
Fax: (843) 365-3153
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Wateree

(Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 773-6366
Nights / Weekends: 1-(877)-831-4647

Bureau of Disease Control

Acute Disease Epidemiology Division
1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902